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CITY INFORMATION

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR

SUBJECT Establishment of Radio Relay System in Suburban Districts
of Gorki /Workers' Opposition/Ban on Sale of Batteries/
Effect on DOSAAVF Activities

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1. "In order to prevent people from listening to foreign radio broadcasts, the Communist Party and administrative authorities of the town of Gorki are building /April 1953/ 36 radio relay stations to serve over 20,000 radio-receiving points ('Radiotochki') planned for the suburban districts of the town.
2. "The suburban districts of Gorki are inhabited mainly by workers employed in various plants and war factories. About 16,000 individual battery radio sets were registered in those districts in April 1953. In September 1952 and in February and March 1953, there were several cases where evidence showed that these radio sets were being used to receive foreign radio broadcasts. The authorities have decided to end this state of affairs.
3. "Construction of a collective radio network started at once and has proceeded at considerable speed. Up to 10 April 53 as many as 32 radio relay stations ('Radiourli') had been built. Nine were in operation; the other 23 were still not active.
4. "This delay is due partly to the lack of trained personnel to operate the relay stations. The main reason, however, is the passive resistance of the workers, who refuse to give up their individual sets and are very reluctant to join the collective radio-listening system.
5. "Unable to cope with the resistance of workers, the authorities issued an instruction prohibiting the sale of batteries in all shops and warehouses. However, new complications have arisen. The radio clubs of the DOSAAVF, which are engaged in training radio technicians and radio mechanics, were also affected by the ban. They had to discontinue their training courses. The whole matter has been referred to the Ministry of Communications. The ORGBURO' (Organisational Bureau) of the DOSAAVF made a representation, complaining that, under the circumstances, it was unable to fulfil its training program."

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